

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 L-01 SP-02 EB-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 IGA-01 OMB-01

ACDA-10 /058 W

----- 050331

P R 221340Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1863

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 0822

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GV US

SUBJECT: GUINEA-SOVIET TIES AND US PL 480 ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) CONAKRY 0808, (B) CONAKRY 0485, (C) CONAKRY 0669,
(D) CONAKRY 0793

1. SUMMARY: PRIOR TO SIGNING FY 76 PL 480 AGREEMENT, MINISTER MOUSSA DIAKITE TOLD AMBASSADOR GOG WONDERED IF "REDUCED LEVEL" OF COMMODITY ALLOCATION WAS RELATED TO US CONCERNS ABOUT GUINEAN INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND WHETHER US WAS HEADING TOWARD "DISENGAGEMENT" FROM GUINEA AND ULTIMATE "RUPTURE". DIAKITE URGED INCREASE IN RICE ALLOCATION AND SAID MINISTERIAL DELEGATION WOULD DEPART IMMEDIATELY FOR WASHINGTON TO SEEK IT. AMBASSADOR ASSURED MINISTER US WISHED MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY TIES WITH GUINEA AND STRESSED THAT FY 76 COMMODITY ALLOCATIONS WERE COMPARABLE TO RECENT FY AGREEMENTS. AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US WAS PUZZLED BY GROWING GUINEAN FACILITATION OF SOVIET MILITARY DEPLOYMENT AND SAID USG DID NOT CONTEMPLATE SUPPLEMENTARY RICE ALLOCATION. GUINEANS ARE AGITATED.
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END SUMMARY.

2. JUST BEFORE SIGNATURE PL480 AGREEMENT, MOUSSA DIAKITE CONVENED AMBASSADOR (ACCOMPANIED BY DCM) FOR VERY FRANK DISCUSSION. ALSO PRESENT WERE MINISTER OF PLAN ALIOUNE Drame, ACTING FONMIN MOROU BALDE, SECRETARY STATE COMMITTEE SEKOU CAMARA, AND DIRECTOR GENERAL GUINEAN FOOD MONOPOLY (ALIMAG) KOUROUMA. DIAKITE (WHO SUBSEQUENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR GOG) OPENED BY REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA IN MARCH WITH PRESIDENT TOURE (REF B) AND AMBASSADOR'S MEETING (REF C) WITH DIAKITE IN APRIL AFTER WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. DIAKITE NOTED THAT IN BOTH OF THESE PREVIOUS MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR HAD INFORMED GOG OF HIS CONCERN REGARDING GUINEA'S INCREASING MILITARY TIES WITH USSR. DIAKITE ALSO REFERRED TO LONG HISTORY OF GOOD US-GUINEAN RELATIONS, EXEMPLIFIED BY PL480 ASSISTANCE, WHICH HAD ALWAYS BEEN MARKED BY NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. DIAKITE THEN TURNED TO THIS YEAR'S PL480 AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT GUINEANS WERE CONSCIOUS OF "NOTABLE REDUCTION" IN PL480 AID COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS AND TO LAST YEAR. DIAKITE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THIS REDUCTION WAS RELATED TO USG'S POLITICAL CONCERNS. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT TOURE HAD WONDERED WHETHER THIS PL480 AGREEMENT SIGNIFIED BEGINNING OF US "DISENGAGEMENT" IN GUINEA AND WHETHER USG WAS MOVING TOWARD "RUPTURE". DIAKITE WENT BACK TO GUINEA'S ORIGINAL PL480 REQUEST WHICH INCLUDED 20,000 MT RICE. GOG WOULD NOT NECESSARILY EXPECT EVERYTHING REQUESTED, BUT AT LEAST HOPED THIS YEAR'S FIGURE WOULD BE SAME AS LAST YEAR (15,000 MT).

4. DIAKITE CONTINUED THAT ALTHOUGH GOG DISAPPOINTED IN PL480 AMOUNTS IT HAD DECIDED SEND MINISTER OF PLAN ALIOUNE Drame TO WASHINGTON WITH TECHNICAL TEAM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 23 TO THANK USG FOR ASSISTANCE. Drame WOULD ALSO DISCUSS INCREASES IN RICE. DIAKITE REFERRED TO ASSISTANCE US EMBASSY HAD RENDERED IN PAST PL480 NEGOTIATIONS, SPECIFICALLY TO AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S MISSION

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(AT SEKOU TOURE'S REQUEST) TO WASHINGTON IN 1974. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR TO HELP PAVE WAY FOR Drame'S MISSION TO WASHINGTON TO BRING THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM UP TO FY75 LEVEL.

5. AMBASSADOR, IN RESPONSE, ASSURED DIAKITE THAT NO ONE IN USG WANTS "RUPTURE" IN FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN GUINEA AND US. SIGNATURE OF MAJOR PL480 ACCORD THIS

YEAR WAS CLEAR SIGN THAT USG WISHES CONTINUE THESE RELATIONS DESPITE ITS CONCERNS REGARDING GUINEAN POLICY. EMBASSY WAS AWAITING IMMINENT AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE FIRST PHASE OF ACCORD FOR AID AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT. USG IN NO WAY CONSIDERED THIS YEAR'S PL480 AGREEMENT A MAJOR REDUCTION. QUANTITY OF WHEAT PROVIDED REMAINED SAME AS LAST YEAR; VEGETABLE OIL HAD BEEN INCREASED BY A THIRD WHILE RICE HAD BEEN DECREASED BY THE SAME PROPORTION. OVERALL QUANTITIES ARE IN LINE WITH EARLIER AGREEMENTS.

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6. AMBASSADOR SAID HE COULD NOT DENY THAT USG CONCERNS REGARDING GUINEA'S INTERNATIONAL POSTURE WERE RELATED TO LEVEL OF RICE PROVIDED AND TO OUR RELUCTANCE TO INCREASE THIS ALLOCATION. USG WAS NOT SURPRISED BY PRESIDENT TOURE'S ANGOLA POLICY AND WAS NOT REACTING TO IT. HOWEVER, MARKED AUGMENTATION OF USSR MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN GUINEA WAS ANOTHER STORY. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT "EVEN TODAY" SOVIET SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT WERE ONCE MORE USING CONAKRY AIRPORT AS BASE.

7. DIAKITE THEN GAVE FLOOR TO MINISTER OF PLAN Drame, WHO REITERATED GOG CONCERNS REGARDING DIMINISHED QUAN-

TITIES. GOG HAD NOTED LOW MARKET PRICE OF RICE THIS YEAR AND HOPED FOR MUCH MORE. GUINEA'S NEEDS, SAID Drame, HAD GREATLY INCREASED; THERE WERE 30 TO 40 THOUSAND NEW RICE CONSUMERS IN URBAN AREAS THAT GOG MUST FEED. THUS SITUATION WAS NOW WORSE THAN LAST YEAR.

8. DIAKITE, IN CONCLUSION, ABRUPTLY INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT HE WOULD SIGN PL480 AGREEMENT BUT WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME SIGN "JOINT COMMUNIQUE" ANNOUNCING QUANTITIES TO BE PROVIDED. GOVERNMENT WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY

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ISSUE COMMUNIQUE. PRESIDENT TOURE WOULD PERSONALLY MAKE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN FORTHCOMING MEETING OF NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. BUT PREFERRED TO DELAY ANY "JOINT COMMUNIQUE" OR RELEASE OF COMMODITY FIGURES UNTIL RESULTS OF Drame VISIT TO WASHINGTON WERE KNOWN.

9. COMMENT: ESCALATION OF SOVIET MILITARY DEPLOYMENT FROM GUINEA-- AND FRANK US DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS--ARE NEW ELEMENTS IN US-GUINEAN RELATIONS. GOG IS DISTURBED. MOUSSA DIAKITE IS UPSET THAT US DOES NOT INTEND TO INCREASE PL480 RICE ALLOTMENT AND THAT US AMBASSADOR DOES NOT APPEAR DISPOSED TO ARGUE GUINEAN CASE IN WASHINGTON.

10. RECOMMEND THAT DURING WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS US OFFICIALS STRESS THAT AGREEMENT NOW SIGNED IS CONTINUING EXPRESSION OF GOOD WILL BETWEEN US AND GUINEAN PEOPLES AND THAT QUANTITIES ARE FULLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE OF RECENT YEARS. (GIVEN CONTINUED GUINEAN FACILITATION OF SOVIET MILITARY ACCESS TO THE ATLANTIC, WITH NEW SOVIET AVIATION FUEL DUMPS AN INDICATION OF FUTURE INTENTIONS, WE SHOULD NOT OF COURSE ACCEDE TO COMMODITY INCREASE.) RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT NOTE TO MINISTER Drame THAT APPARENT GUINEAN INVOLVEMENT IN MAJOR POWER STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP CANNOT FAIL TO HAVE BEARING ON OUR HISTORICALLY AMICABLE BILATERAL RELATIONS.

1. GOG COULD PRESUMABLY PURCHASE ADDITIONAL FIVE THOUSAND TONS RICE THROUGH CCC EXPORT CREDIT SALES PROGRAM (REFTEL D) FOR APPROXIMATELY USD 1.4 MILLION. DUE TO FAVORABLE COMMODITY MARKET GOG TOTAL EXPENDITURES WOULD STILL BE LESS THAN IN FY 75 BY SOME USD TWO TO THREE MILLION.
HARROP

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